

Congressional Record
September 9, 2005

Ms. MIKULSKI. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I come to the floor as the ranking member of this very brand new subcommittee called Commerce, Justice, and Science. As the Presiding Officer knows, and our colleagues remember, the Appropriations Committee reorganized itself, and I had been the ranking member of a subcommittee called VA-HUD and Independent Agencies. It exists no more. But now we have Commerce, Justice, and Science, which we think is an outstanding subcommittee, funding the important agencies related to making us a safer, stronger, smarter, more innovative country....

In science, we have NOAA, which I have spoken about, which does fantastic work on weather prediction, saving lives, and saving communities through their predictions. But at the same time, they do fantastic research on our oceans, on our bays and so on. We know that we are going to face, because of Katrina, a real impact on oysters and clams and shrimp on the gulf coast. What are the ideas to be able to help out and restore the bays that produce those delicious morsels but that are so important to the economy and to little people who have names like watermen and fishermen and seafood? **This is what we are challenging NOAA to do, continue their great research.** But we need immediate and practical solutions to protect the seafood industry on the gulf coast.